

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for a product seller to distribute a product to a product buyer, comprising:

a product seller applying a marking to each of a plurality of packages and loading the packages with product so that information about a product in a package is associated with the marking on the package, wherein said information is stored in a computer;

the product seller grouping a plurality of packages into a container;

[[a]] the product seller applying an RFID tag, or a one dimensional marking, or a two dimensional marking, to [[a]] the container having a product therein, wherein information related to the product of the plurality of packages is associated with the RFID tag, or the one dimensional marking or the two dimensional marking, and shipping said container to a product buyer, wherein the product buyer can receive said container and can retrieve the information associated with about the product in each of the plurality of packages by reading the RFID tag, or the one dimensional marking, or the two dimensional marking on the container.

2. Canceled

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product is a food product for human consumption.

4. Canceled

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[4]] 1, wherein the individual packages are marked with [[an]] a unique identifying marking or number.

6. Canceled

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining the buyer for said product from the information associated with the RFID tag, the one dimensional marking, or the two dimensional marking.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether the product has exceeded a limited period outside of refrigeration from the information associated with the RFID tag, the one dimensional marking, or the two dimensional marking.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining the shelf life of said product from the information associated with the RFID tag, the one dimensional marking, or the two dimensional marking.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9, further comprising applying a label to a package loaded with product, wherein said label indicates the shelf life of the product.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product comprises beef, pork, lamb, poultry, or any combination thereof.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the beef has been tested for the presence of bacteria.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the bacteria is E. coli.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the beef has been treated with a bactericidal agent and water.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the beef has been treated with a bactericidal agent and water to produce a treated beef product having a predetermined quantity of added water.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said container is at least occasionally monitored throughout said shipping.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said container is at least occasionally monitored throughout said shipping with a global positioning system.

18. (Currently amended) A method for a product buyer to receive a product from a product seller, comprising:

a product buyer receiving a container with a plurality of packages loaded with product therein and retrieving information associated with ~~the product in each of the packages by reading~~ an RFID tag, a one dimensional marking, or a two dimensional marking applied to the container by a product seller, ~~wherein information related to the product is associated with the RFID tag, the one dimensional marking or the two dimensional marking~~ wherein each package further comprises a marking that is associated with information about product contained in the package;
and

the product buyer storing the information retrieved by reading the RFID tag, the one dimensional marking, or the two dimensional marking on the container in a computer.

19. Canceled

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said product is a food product for human consumption.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said information is used by the buyer to inventory said product.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said information is used by the buyer to manage said product.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said information is used by the buyer in computing a selling price for said product.

24. Canceled

25. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising determining whether the product has exceeded a limited period outside of refrigeration from the information associated with the RFID tag, the one dimensional marking, or the two dimensional marking.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising determining the shelf life of said product from the information associated with the RFID tag, the one dimensional marking, or the two dimensional marking.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said container is at least occasionally monitored throughout said shipping.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said container is at least occasionally monitored throughout said shipping with a global positioning system.